

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OIC-02 ARA-06 EB-07 COME-00 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 OMB-01

ABF-01 TRSE-00 AF-04 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-06 SP-02 /074 W

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R 261732Z NOV 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9407

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PASS DAVID PARKER, DEP ASST SEC OF COMMERCE (USTS)

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG OCON WTO

SUBJ: WTO SYG LONATI FACING PROBLEM FINANCING FIRST ASSEMBLY

REF: A) GENEVA 7114; B) GENEVA 7089; C) GRIP-PROHME LETTER NOV13, 74

1. WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION SYG LONATI CALLED MISSION OFFICER
NOV 26 TO REPORT FURTHER ON HIS CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS WITH MISSIONS

IN GENEVA ABOUT FIRST WTO ASSEMBLY.

2. HE SAID HE HAD HAD MORNING-LONG DISCUSSION ON NOV 25 WITH SWISS
(AMBASSADOR DOMINICE, COUNSELOR SCHNEEBERGER AND MUHEIM FROM POLITICAL

DEPARTMENT, BERN) DURING WHICH HE RAISED TWO POINTS: 1) REQUEST FOR
IMMUNITY FOR WTO AS INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION; AND 2) REQUEST
FOR SUPPORT-IN FORM OF FINANCING, PROVISION OF HALL, ASSISTANCE
WITH ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF-FOR FIRST WTO ASSEMBLY TO BE HELD NEXT
MARCH IN GENEVA.

3. SWISS GAVE SYG VERY COOL RECEPTION, LONATI REPORTED,
PARTICULARLY RE FIRST ASSEMBLY. THEY CITED ENORMOUS COST TO
SWISS GOVERNMENT OF 1975 SESSION OF HUMANITARIAN LAW

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CONFERENCE, AND CHIDED LONATI FOR NOT HAVING RAISED ASSEMBLY

ISSUE WITH THEM SOONER. THEY CONCLUDED THAT FINANCING WOULD BE DIFFICULT AND FINDING A HALL IN GENEVA IN MARCH EVEN MORE DIFFICULT. IN ANY EVENT THEY WOULD RESPOND TO HIS REQUESTS IN WRITING.

4. LONATI SAID HE HAD GIVEN SWISS STAFFING, SERVICE NEEDS OF IUOTO ASSEMBLY HELD IN SOFIA, BULGARIA, IN 1969 AS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT WTO WOULD PROBABLY NEED FOR MARCH ASSEMBLY IN GENEVA. HE SAID SWISS TALKED VAGUELY OF HOLDING ASSEMBLY IN MONTREUX RATHER THAN GENEVA AS LATTER OVERCHARGED NEXT SPRING. LONATI UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THIS SUGGESTION AS HE FEELS THAT IF GENEVA NOT SITE OF ASSEMBLY, WTO STATUTES WILL BE CONTRAVENED AND WHOLE QUESTION OF SITE, I.E., MEXICO CITY OFFER, ETC., WOULD BE REOPENED.

5. AS RESULT OF HIS CONSULTATIONS WITH SWISS, LONATI HAS TENTATIVELY DECIDED TO SEND OUT INVITATIONS TO FIRST ASSEMBLY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING PANAMA CITY IUOTO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETIN WIT QUESTION OF SITE TO BE SUBJECT OF "FURTHER COMMUNICATION."

6. LONATI SAID THAT WELL INFORMED GENEVA DIPLOMATIC SOURCES TOLD HIM INFORMALLY THAT SWISS UNINTERESTED IN HOLDING WTO ASSEMBLY IN GENEVA OR IN HAVING WTO ESTABLISH ITS PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS HERE. FOR ECONOMIC AND PRESTIGE REASONS, SWISS DO NOT WANT GENEVA'S ALREADY OVERCHARGED ECONOMY AND OVERBURDENED FACILITIES FURTHER PRESSURED BY PRESENCE OF ANOTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGENCY, THESE SOURCES SAY.

7. LONATI SAID HE HAD ALSO CONSULTED WITH INDIAN MISSION (CHARGE CHADHA AND RAWAT) NOV 25 AND FOUND THEM DIVIDED RE EARLY ASSEMBLY WITH CHADHA TENDING TO AGREE WITH MARCH ASSEMBLY PROPOSAL, BUT NOT FULLY DOING SO, AND RAWAT CONTINUING TO OPPOSE CONVENING ASSEMBLY BEFORE NOVEMBER.

8. RAWAT SUGGESTED THAT INDIANS CONVENE AN INFORMAL MEETING OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES IN GENEVA TO CONSIDER QUESTION OF EARLY WTO ASSEMBLY. LONATI OPPOSED THIS SAYING SUCH A MEETING WOULD NOT BE REPRESENTATIVE, SOULD RUN INTO LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES AND WOULD DUPLICATE HIS OWN EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT.

9. LONATI ADDED THAT IN ADDITION TO MISSIONS LISTED IN PARA 1, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REF A HE HAD RECENTLY CONSULTED WITH THE FOLLOWING MISSIONS: GABON, MOROCCO, INDONESIA, IRAN, PANAMA. HE SAID ALL AGREED TO CONSULT THEIR GOVERNMENTS RE HIS RECOMMENDATION FOR EARLY ASSEMBLY.

10. LONATI SAID THAT WTO HAD B61 MEMBERS AS OF NOV 25, THE SUDAN HAVING JUST DEPOSITED ITS RATIFICATION. HE ADDED THAT HE WAS COUNTING ONLY PERMANENT MEMBERS IN DETERMINING SIZE OF FIRST

COUNCIL; ACCORDINGLY HE WAS THINKING OF AN INITIAL COUNCIL OF 12 AT STATUTORY RATE OF ONE COUNCIL MEMBER FOR EVERY FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION.

11. LONATI SAID HE WAS CONSULTING REGULARLY WITH THE WTO LEGAL ADVISER, FRENCH LAW PROFESSOR VIRALLI, SUCCESSOR TO PROFESSOR PAUL GUGGENHEIM, AND AN EMINENT JURIST. HE SAID HE HAD ALSO CONSULTED WITH THE UN LEGAL ADVISER IN GENEVA, BUT HAD FOUND HIM LESS HELPFUL THAN VIRALLI.

12. LONATI CONTINUED TO FEEL THAT MOST UNSATISFACTORY ASPECT OF TIMING OF FIRST WTO ASSEMBLY WAS THAT NO MAJOR COUNTRIES WOULD BE ELIGIBLE TO BE ELECTED TO THE COUNCIL.

13. AS REQUESTED REF C 10 COPIES OF WTO STATUTES AIRPOUCHED TO GRIP, IO/TRC.
ABRAMS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GENEVA07177
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740343-0737
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741113/aaaaakbn.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) GENEVA 7114; B) GENEVA 7089; C) G, RIP-PROHME LETTER NOV13, 74
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUN 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <09 JUL 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WTO SYG LONATI FACING PROBLEM FINANCING FIRST ASSEMBLY
TAGS: AORG, OCON, WTO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005